

*Supply—National Defence*

Discussions are still taking place in the United Nations with respect to the payment of costs of the emergency force, and it is probable that some of these extra costs will be paid by the United Nations. In this event a supplementary contribution from Canada to the United Nations will undoubtedly be required but in any event the additional cost to Canada to the end of the current fiscal year should not, I feel, go beyond the figure I have mentioned. In the light of all the uncertainties surrounding the expenditures of defence moneys, there are no grounds at this time to seek authority for additional funds and that is why the appropriation now before the house, as I am sure hon. members will all realize, must be regarded as a purely nominal amount.

If, towards the end of the fiscal year, it is evident that as a result of the additional costs incurred in this operation the present defence appropriation will prove inadequate, a further supplementary estimate will be sought. I might add this word in regard to defence expenditures. To date they are running very close to our estimates so there is no significant margin of unused appropriations to be expected, but it is hoped that the margin will be sufficient to cover the additional expenditures incurred in connection with the emergency force.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Mr. Chairman, we on this side of the house, as has already been shown by our vote, believe it is desirable that Canada share with the other nations composing the United Nations in sending a force to the Middle East designed and prepared to prevent hostilities in that troubled part of the world and to carry out the general police duties to which it may be assigned. We share with the government the knowledge that the people of this country, as well as the peoples of other countries, crave urgently for peace, and it does seem that here is an opportunity for Canada as well as for the United Nations to take positive steps in order to secure and maintain peace. Surely that has been one of the roles of the Canadian defence forces throughout the years, and today our design is not for aggressive war but to preserve peace and to allow the citizens of this land to live in peace.

That may have been the general concept of the defence forces some years ago but it has broadened now since we have become a member of this great international organization, the United Nations, as well as a very active member of a smaller grouping of nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am perfectly convinced that the only way in which peace can be maintained is by some form of collective action.

It is quite impossible in these days for any one country either to defend its own shores against an aggressor or to preserve the peace of the world by its own action. Therefore, realizing that collective action is necessary, we want to ensure that our contribution to that collective force is an effective and efficient one and that our troops will be taking part in an operation which has every reason to be successful.

I am also aware of the fact that the moral effect of a large number of nations sending their contingents for one particular purpose will, to a large extent, outbalance the lack of military cohesion which must exist, to a certain extent, in any international force. It would not be possible for Canada or for any other one country to send a properly balanced police force, with one country supplying the various arms which are required for that work, and to achieve the same moral effect as is to be achieved by a force composed of soldiers, sailors and airmen drawn from, as I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) said, 22 nations. I should like to stress the moral effect of this collective security force.

Bearing that fact in mind, may I say that it is essential that whatever force is sent into this disturbed area must be sufficiently strong to carry out the tasks which are assigned to it, and within the various components it must be a sufficiently balanced force so that it will be capable of carrying out the various roles it may be called upon to carry out. I refer to roles such as the reconnaissance of distant approaches and so forth. During the course of the debate, we have endeavoured to find out what is the composition of this international force. That information has been denied to us. We have not been told what countries are supplying the troops. We have not been told what type of troops these various countries are supplying. In the previous remarks that I made I pointed out that, owing to the nature of the terrain in which our Canadian troops are likely to be stationed, it is essential that those troops be provided with the means of reconnaissance, with great flexibility and mobility. It is not essential that Canada supply all those types of troops but it is essential that some country supply them. It may be Canada's role to provide the base in the form of H.M.C.S. *Magnificent*; it may be Canada's role to provide the transport aircraft and it may be Canada's accepted role to provide an infantry battalion. An infantry battalion will be required in the forces which are being assembled. However, we should like to know that the infantry battalion Canada is supplying will have the support that any infantry